of Doordarshan on June 13, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a sense of insecurity is prevailing among the media personnel; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to provide security to the employees nad installations ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir, such security was further tightened after the said incident.

(b) and (c) The security arrangements are reviewed from time to time and appropriate action taken in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, State Governments and the security agencies.

Removal of Doordarshan News Readers

786. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of News Readers in Doordarshan have been taken off their task recently;

(b) what is the procedure followed for making the selection; and

(c) the number of News Readers who are now on the panel and those whose names have been deleted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The applications for casual News Presenters are initially screened at the Kendra level and those found suitable are called for preliminary audition by way of a voice test. Candidates found suitable in the audition tests are thereafter invited for camera audition. The recordings are previewed by Committees constituted by the Director of the Doordarshan Kendra.

In case of the National News Bulletins, Committees are constituted by Doordarshan Directorate. The Central Committee has normally five Members with the Director General as the Chairman besides three outsiders and Additional Director General (News)/Deputy Director General (News) as the Members. On the basis of the recommendations of the Committees, the successful candidates are initially offered trial booking. The Presenters are placed in the approved panel of casual News Presenters subject to their satisfactory performances.

(c) There are at present 25 English News Presenters and 21 Hindi News Presenters on the Panel. There has been no deletion of any names from the approved panel.

Number of Newspapers closed down in the country

787. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of newspapers have been closed down in the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the names of such newspapers which have been closed down; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to persuade the managements to restart these newspapers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) As per the information available with Registrar of Newspapers for India, 3 newspapers in Tamil Nadu, 1 in Kerala and 7 in Delhi, ceased their publication during 1990. The list of these newspapers is given in the statement. Any newspapers which ceases publication can resume the same any time after making a fresh declaration before the District Magistrate concerned. As a matter of policy, the Government do not interfere in such matters.